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2600



**БАЛЧИК 1992**  
ОБЩИНСКИ СЪВЕТ  
АВТОРСКИ КОЛЕКТИВ С РЪКОВОДИТЕЛ  
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# БАЛЧИК 2600 BALTCHIK 2600

Посвещава се на две хиляди и шестстотин годишнината от създаването на един от най-древните полиси / градове / в българските земи: КРУНОЙ / КРУНИ / - ДИОНИСОПОЛИС - КАРВУНА - БАЛЧИК.

Над две хилядолетия и половина живот - епоха на величие и падения, на промени в наименованията, държавно притежание и етническа принадлежност - винаги непосредствено до морето - опора и надежда в бъдното!

Es wird dem 2600 Jahrestag von der Entstehung einer der aeltesten bulgarischen Staedte gewidmet: KRUNOI ( KRUNI ) - DIONYSSOPOLIS - KARWUNA - **BALTSCHIK**. 2600 Jahre Macht und Verfall, Namenswechsel, Staatsbesitz und ethnisches Eigentum - aber immer am Meer, als Stuetze und Hoffnung.

Dedicated to the 2600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of one of the most ancient towns on Bulgarian soil.

**KRUNI, DIONYSSOPOLIS, KARVUNA, BALTCHIK.**

Over two thousand and a half years of names and ethnical belonging - always near the sea - mainstay and hope of the future.

Ce livre est consacré au 2600<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire d'une des plus anciennes villes Bulgares: CROUNY - DIONYSSOPOLIS - CARVOUNA - **BALTCHIK**.

C'est une époque de grandeur et de déchéance, des changements de nom, de pays et d'appartenance ethnique. Et toujours près de la mer - un appui et un espoir pour le futur.



нови невидени прелести, ако завиеш наляво, ще попаднеш сред дивни красоти, но не ще сгрешиш и ако поемеш направо, защото и тук – в стария град – те очаква неизвестното. Тръгнеш ли направо, серпентините ще те отведат горе на равнината и ще имаш избора да продължиш към Каварна, Калиакра, Русалка, Яйлата, Шабла и Дуранкулак – навсякъде ще бъдеш посрещнат радушно!

Преминал през старинната част на Балчик, ще се насладиш на много от неговите хубости, а можеш и да продължиш към друг природен феномен – Тузлата, с нейните прелести и чудотворно лечителни солени езера!

Балчик – Белият град!

Бисерът на българското Черноморие!

Добре дошъл, страннико, и на добър час в този град, където хилядолетната история съжителства с градежите на съвремието и носи неповторимо послание към бъдещето!

## BALCHIK 2600

It is the southeast area of the Old Continent, referred to as the Balkan Peninsula, where an ancient predecessor of the modern civilization emerged long before the civilizations of Mesopotamia - Shumer and Acad.

Nowadays the main part of these territories is inhabited by Bulgarians who settled there 1300 years ago. As newcomers they came into possession of the inheritance left by ancient people and cultures. If we go on a journey along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast we shall acquaint with the present day towns and villages as well as with the remnants of a former glory which point at the transiency of human life.

Forty kilometres north of Varna the sea has carved a beautiful cove into the shore. There lives a small town which is undoubtedly one of the most charming places around.

## CRUNY - THE LEGENDARY

Though there are very few historical sources

informing about the foundation of the ancient Greek settlements along the Western Black Sea coast, it becomes evident that the first and most important centres of the ancient civilizations - Istros, Tomis, Calatis, Apolonia, Odessos and Messambria - were set up in the period between 620 - 575 B.C. According to Herodotus the town of Crunoy (Crunity) was established during the reign of king Astiag - an ancient ruler of present day Asia Minor.

As the legends in the old chronicles say the native population together with the merchant seafarers from Yonian Greece (present day Asia Minor) organized the living in the new town named Cruny. Translated from Greek this title means water springs. It derives from the fact that the lands in the region were extremely rich in mineral springs and underground waters.

Life in the town prospered through a brisk trade oversea. Close trade relations were established with all Mediterranean countries. At that stage of development the settlement was founded in the mid-fourth century by Philip II of Macedon .

It is still a moot question whether the title of the town was changed exactly at that time or later by those of the inhabitants who believed in Thracian Orphism. If we trust this extract from an ancient chronicle: "... during a violent storm the sea cast ashore a statue of Dionysos ..." it becomes evident that the change in the name of the town was an act of paying honour to the God Dionysos.

## DIONYSOPOLIS - THE MIGHTIEST

To make a clear description of the development of the ancient Hellénic settlement is still an arduous task. Nevertheless the remains of a vast fortress construction show the strategy of its ruler. Those lands belonged to Alexander of Macedon whose empire spread on the whole of the Balkan Peninsula in the mid-fourth century B.C. The town undoubtedly flourished. Some of the written records of that time found on the territory of the present day town tell about the many-sided social, economic and cultural life in the settlement. A text devoted to Polixen, one of the creditors of Dionysopolis who belonged to the ancient Messambrian dynasty Melsios, tells how the Messambrian though being in a period of hard times allotted a large sum of money to help

its economy and construct one of the first gymnasiums along the western Black Sea coast.

Another inscription dating back to the following century was devoted to the conflict between the independent Hellenic towns Dionysopolis and Calatis. The matter in dispute were the boundary lines. Special committees of the rulers Kotis and Odessos took part in the settling of the problem. The most important piece of information in that document is that the argument about the existence of a filial town of Dionysopolis titled Aphrodizion (Aphrodizia) was brought to an end.

A third inscription (1st century B.C.) confirms that Dionysopolis was a highly developed centre of the past closely affected by the battles for obtaining predominance in the southeast between Roma and Burebista as well as by the attempts of the five towns (Pentapolis) to derive large financial benefits.

An important characteristic of the economic independence of the town was the presence of a mint producing coins until the middle of the third century A.D. Then during the reign of emperor Gordian III a number of administrative changes took place in the empire.

The remains of ancient fortifications are an important evidence of the large area occupied by the town in the past. The small Hellenic fortress was broadened first northwest and then, in the end of the second and the beginning of the third century, it grew southwards to the sea. The town was built in accordance with all requirements of the ancient military and civil construction, it had water-supply system, a catch-water drain and a number of temples and public buildings were erected.

During the reign of emperor Justinian (527 - 565) Dionysopolis passed a period of rapid progress. Later on the beautiful lands of the Balkan Peninsula drew the attention of some barbarian tribes (Avars, Protobulgarians and Slavs) and as a result the so called "barbarian" invasions began in the 7th C. So, along with the rest of the towns down the western Black Sea coast, Dionysopolis fell into the hands of the barbarian conquerors. Hence a new settlement grew upon the ruins of the ancient town. It was named Karvouna.

The new name of the town appears for the first time in an ancient chronicle which dates back to the mid-nineth century. Together with some previously established towns Karvouna is most frequently assosciated with the dawn of Danubian Bulgaria. It came to be known that upon the ruins of Dionysopolis was set up one of the biggest fortified settlements on the territory of Danubian Bulgaria. It occupied an area of more than 1300 decares surrounded by large earthworks. During the first half of the nineth century the earthworks were replaced by the reconstructed stone walls of the ancient settlement which appeared to be a better form of defence.

Karvouna, the origin of the title has not been discovered yet, functioned as an important city-centre of mediaeval Bulgaria until the beginning of the eleventh century. Than Byzantium took possession of the lands lying south of the river Danube.

As a result of the riots in Paristrion Bulgariion the population of the mediaeval town was forced to leave and settle on the neighbouring hillocks west of the present day centre of the town. Under the rule of Byzantium (11th - 12th C.) and later up to the late mid-fifteenth century the settlement underwent a period of considerable material and cultural progress. Some of the remains of that period which belonged to the Bulgarian population have their indisputable parrarels in the capital of the second Bulgarian kingdom - Veliki Preslav.

It was also a period of intense building and of economic advance. The fortifications were reconstructed, new buildings were erected upon the ruins of the old ones and the port started functioning again. Considerable number of coins were minted and put in circulation during the reign of of the Byzantine rulers Joan II and Manoul I Komnin (1118-1180), Andronic Komnin and Angelite (1180-1186). The foreign rule was overthrown by the liberation movement of the Bulgarians led by the brothers Assen and Petar in the area between the Balkan Range and the river Danube (1185 - 1188).

In 1366 the main town of the region became the inaccessible fortress Kaliakra, the residence of despot Dobrotitsa. Until the mid-18th century the title Karvouna still appeared though rarely in historical documents such as the two synodical resolutions of the Constantinople eparchy (1369 - 1389) and a number of navigation charts drawn by Pietro Visconti, Mario Sanudo Seniour and Graciozo Beninkaza.

At the time of the Magyar ruler Vladislav III Varnenchik the town was razed to the ground for it shared the doom of all mediaeval countries on the Balkans and in part of Central Europe that were conquered by the Ottomans and consequently turned into provinces of the Ottoman empire.

## THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST - BALCHIK

For a long time the town sunk in oblivion. The first information for the existence of a settlement on that territory was like a distant echo. It provided ground for disputes on the problem of the mixed character of the population for after the Ottoman invasion in Bulgaria and the process of colonization of Dobroudza during the 15th - 17th century Balchik was converted into a town with predominating Turkish population. The bulk of the population that occupied the place before the invasion of the Turks left. Very few Christians remained, most of them stockmen. A squalid little settlement was built on the ruins of the flourishing in the past mediaeval town.

In 1604 the place was assaulted by the Cossacks. In 1653 the title Balchik was registered by the travelling geographer Evlia Cheleby and legalized for the coming centuries. The wars led by the Russian empire at that period provided conditions for a new Bulgarian colonization.

About the beginning of the 19th century the town has already grown into a district centre. An intense socio-economic progress began. The port was also modernized, just like the ones in Constantsa and Varna.

During the years 1845 - 1847 was erected a church called "St. Nicola" and the first school in the district was built by the Bulgarian municipality. Several years later another church called "St. Georgy" was constructed with the financial support of the ardent patriot Koyo Baichev.

The townscape reflected the revived spirit of the population in its peculiar manner. The mosques and the minarets which had dominated its outlook before the mid-nineteenth century were replaced by numerous two or three-floor houses. Some of them still exist as the reconstructed ethnographic house, the Temelkov's inn, the National Revival Complex and most of the buildings on Alexander Stamboliiski Street - all of them constructed in the style of old Bulgarian schools. The old hotel in neoclassical romantic style built between 1866 - 1871 is undoubtedly an important architectural find for the professionals.

During the years 1869 - 1870 an intense struggle for independent education began and the Bulgarian inhabitants of the town established a cultural club. Inspite of the frequent conflicts between Greeks and Bulgarians the national cause of the latter gained superiority.

After the liberation in 1878 a number of administrative changes took place in Bulgaria. Hence the town became a centre of one of the 66 regions that the country had been divided into and several years later its lost privileges of a district centre were restored.

The period between the end of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century was one of great industrial, economic and political prosperity of the region and the town itself. Seven joint-stock companies operating with a capital fund of more than two million golden levs were established, a number of factories, many fishing societies and a corn-exchange were founded, and the production of agricultural goods continuously increased.

Education and culture also underwent great progress. The foundation of a library, a theatre, an orchestra and a sporting society became possible due to the ardent patriotism of the town's intelligentsia.

In 1913 the third national catastrophe led to the annexation of South Dobroudzha and its town centres as well. With the exception of the years between 1915 - 1919 the occupation of Dobroudzha lasted until the autumn of 1940.

Though the Romanian court intended to transform the town into a pearl of the Black Sea coast these were hard times for the Bulgarian population. Most of the schools were closed and the natives were deprived of their own lands. The most progressive-minded people of the district emigrated.

The first acts expressing disapproval of the foreign rule were the establishment of Bulgarian private schools and cultural societies. On September 21st 1940 as a result of the agreement signed in the Romanian town Crayova Balchik was the first town in the region that gave a hearty welcome to the Bulgarian liberation army led by the governor - general Popov. Since 1940 to the present day in the eve of the 2600th anniversary of the foundation of the ancient settlement Cruny, Balchik has constantly been the centre of a district which shares common borders with the districts of Varna, Dobrich, General Toshevo and Kavarna.

The town itself is located partly on the sea shore and partly on the Dobroudzha and the Frangen's plateau. The height varies from the sea level to the plateau level and reaches up to 250 metres, hence the unevenness of the terrain.

The agricultural fund of the region is 42 663,4 hectares, 35 884,4 of them arable lands. The woods cover an area of 5996,4 hectares and the populated area is about 1695,5 hectares. The beach strip reaches up to 30 kilometres in length which is an important condition for the development of the region in the sphere of tourism and recreation. This region is extremely rich in mineral springs and underground waters which are the main sources for the modern water-supply system with a capacity of 1000 litres per second. Some mineral ore deposits were found around the village of Oborishte. The ore bed is between 280 - 420 metres in depth and 10 metres in lift. The Dobroudzha coal field located in the area between Balchik and Kavarna covers an area of 50 sq km. Four coal-measures were found at a depth of 1300 to 2000 m which provide a capacity of more than one billion and 200 million tons. The area between Balchik and Shabla is also being examined for some oil and gas.

Seven kilometres south of Balchik is situated the Albena resort. It is an attractive and popular Black Sea resort offering a wonderful combination of warm and calm sea, a wide beach covered with smooth sand, an eastward-looking terraced hill and a refreshing forest. On this romantic piece of land several talented Bulgarian architects created an original and exciting composition of pyramidal hotels looking on to the sea. Albena provides excellent conditions for sports and recreations including open-air and indoor swimming pools with mineral water, gymnasiums, saunas, facilities for underwater massage, mud baths and electrotherapy, a

polyclinic, tennis courts, a water slide, a bowling centre and an amusement park. The Dobroudzha Hotel boasts a very modern balneological centre offering over 100 procedures for the treatment of the locomotory system under highly qualified medical control. The name of the resort is becoming a symbol of hospitality, top-rate service and unforgettable experiences.

From Balchik one can easily get by road or by sea to the neighbouring towns Varna, Kavarna and Dobrich. There are also transport connections to the nearby camp site of the Bulgarian Motorist Society and the balneological complex Touzlata which is a rare natural phenomenon offering mud baths in the open air.

Balchik provides excellent conditions for the tourists, foreign visitors and holiday-makers. There are three top-rate hotels in the town, two camp sites, an original shopping centre called "Helios" and a number of restaurants, snack bars and cafes offering cosy atmosphere to the visitors.

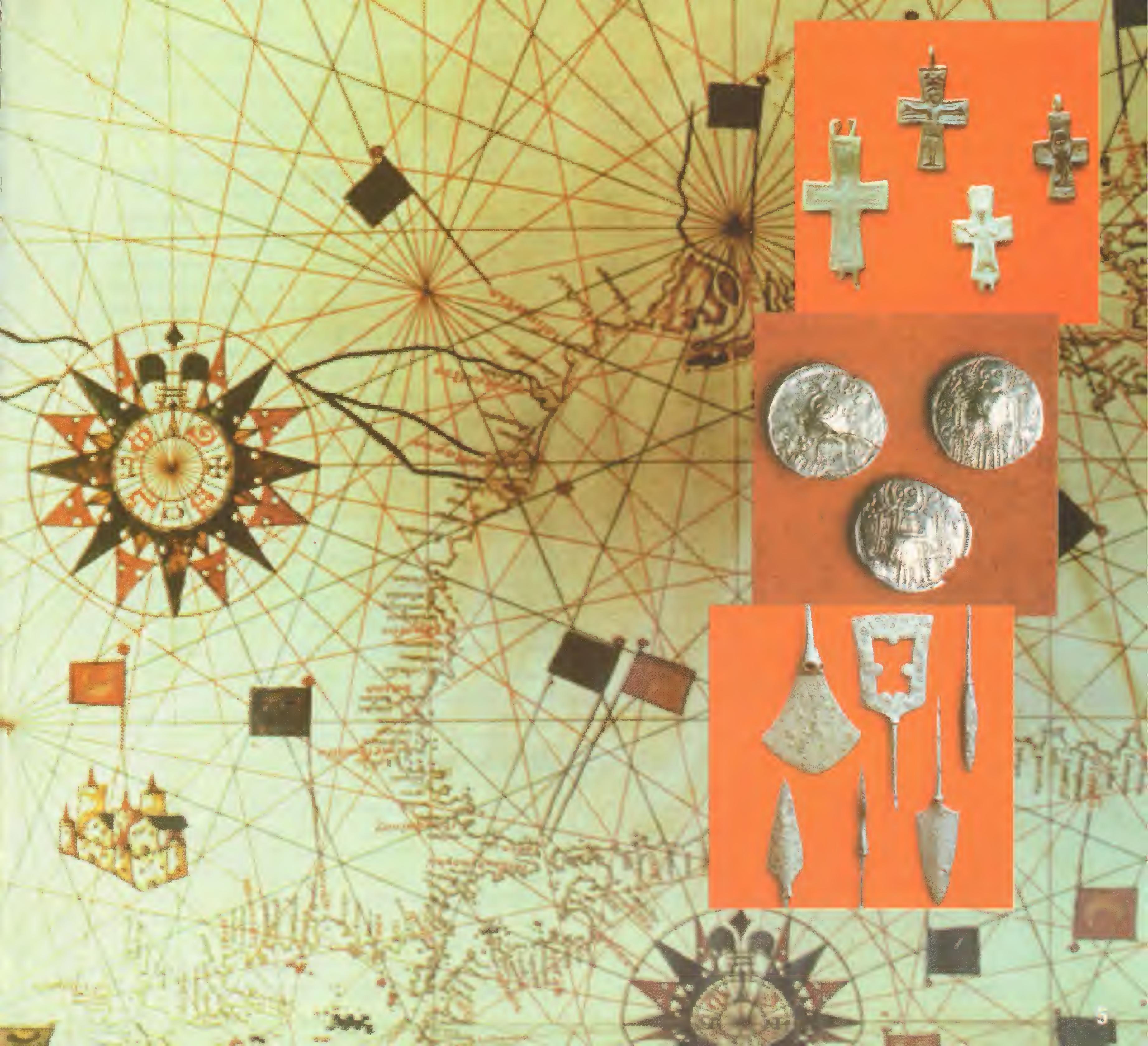
One of the most interesting places in the vicinity of the town is the Palace - an architectural complex built by Italian architects within the period 1920 - 1936. It was the summer residence of the Romanian queen at the time of the Romanian occupation of South Dobroudzha. The place is famous mainly for its exotic botanical garden.

Today the town of the white rocks, the pearl of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is a preferred place for rest and tourism by the people of art and culture, scientists and foreign visitors. With its narrow streets and picturesque landscape the town is a living symbol of a peaceful world.

## **BALTSCHIK 2600**

Wenn Du die Balkanhalbinsel besuchst, beeindruckst Du Dich, daß sie eine Wiege uralter Völker und Kultur ist. Eine Reise zu der bulgarischen Schwarzmeerküste zeigt Dir nicht nur die gegenwärtigen Städte, sondern auch die Unvergänglichkeit alter Reste. Wenn Du diese Spazierfahrt unternimmst, wirst Du unbedingt eine charmante Ecke entdecken, die 40 Km nordöstlich von der Stadt Varna entfernt ist - ein sagenhaftes Schwarzmeerbusen und die daran aufgebaute Stadt Baltschik.



















**BALETT  
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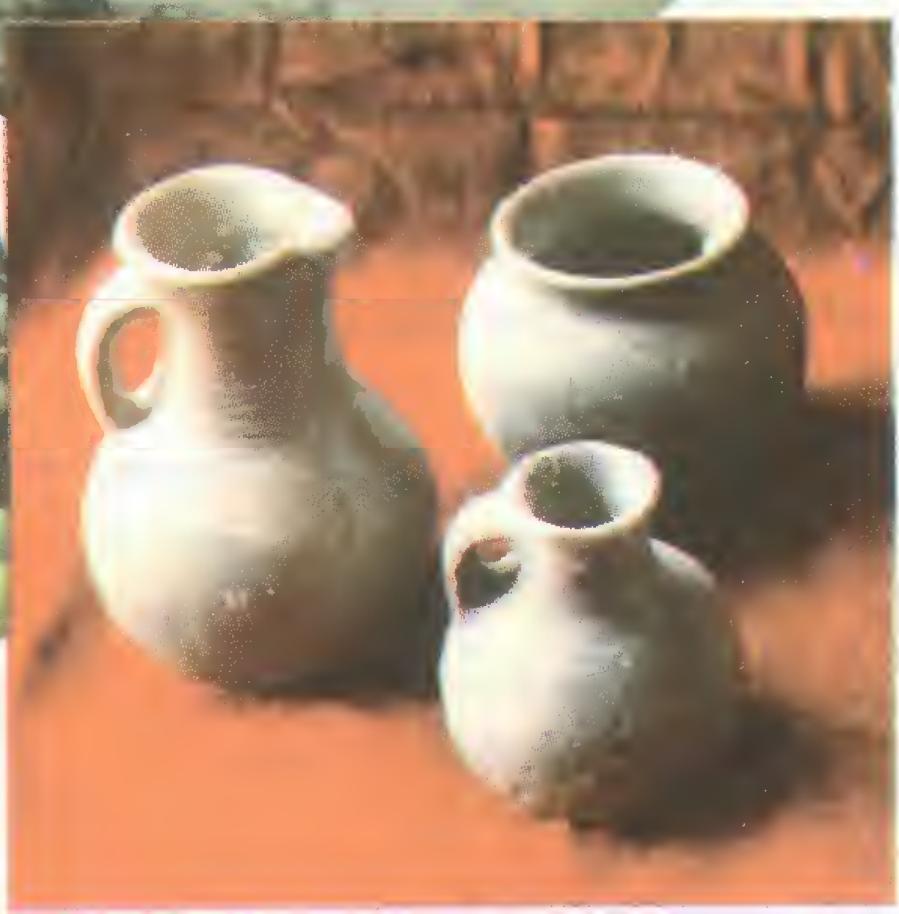


















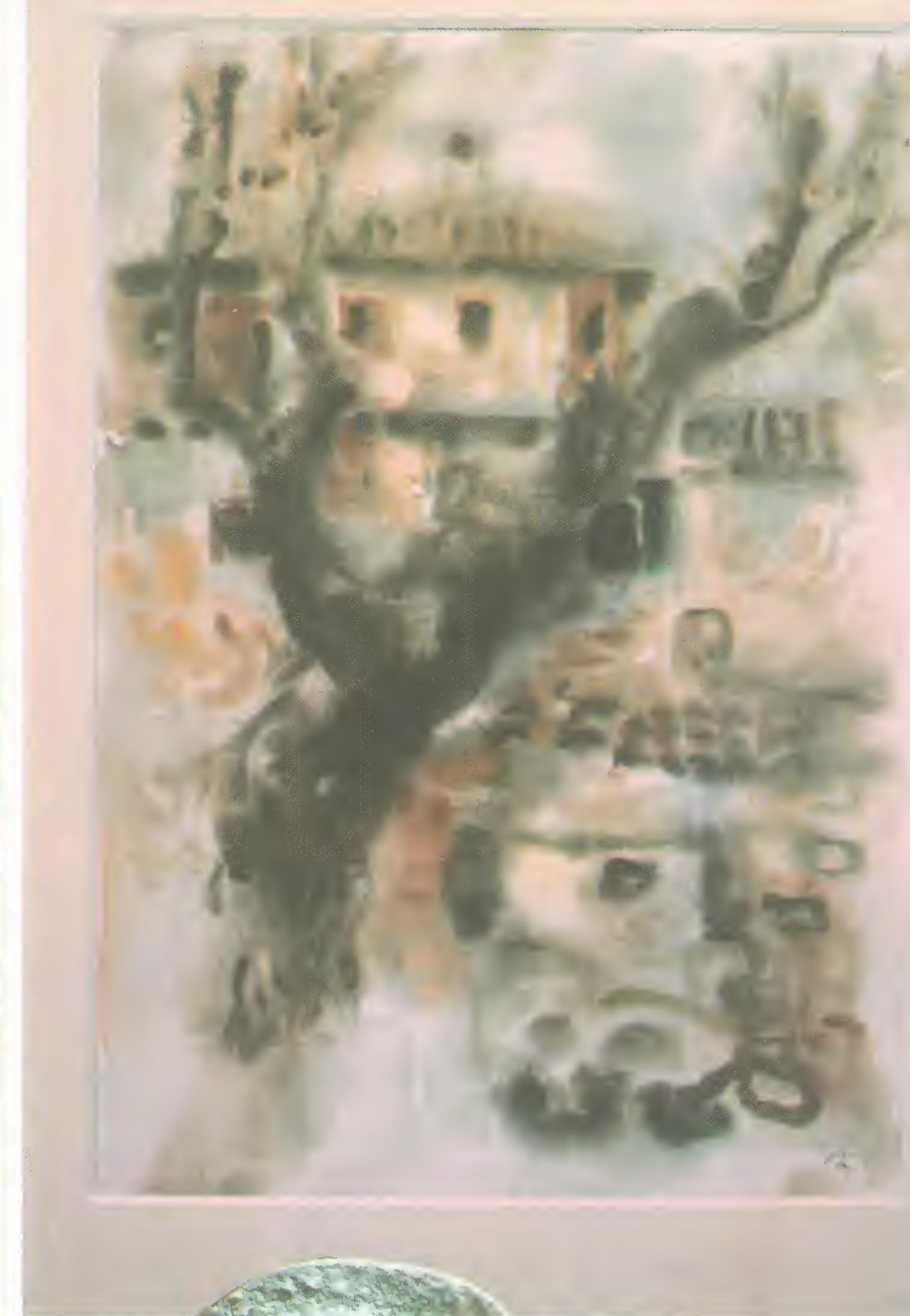
















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